A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

# Project Exam 1

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Word count

1034

## Design

**What went well on the project**

First, I started out making wireframe sketches and a Style Tile sheet to figure out the general feeling I wanted to create for my blog website. Then I decided to make a tropical blog with content about experiences in exotic places around the world. With that in mind, I decided to make a colour palette with Adobe XD which was inspired by water. The idea was that the user would experience the tropical website “under water”. The result was a colour-gradient stretching from a light green/teal colour to a light blue colour that fills up the entire body from left to right.

On the header, I was satisfied with the design and thought it was easy to understand and navigate through the site. For the footer and fonts, I used the font “Open Sans” and used a dark green/navy blue colour on the font/footer, in which I thought was a nice contrast to the background-colour. This made the website look fresh and attractive in my opinion, and I think it also fitted my target audience which was aimed at young adults.

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

When I first started designing the blog site in Adobe XD, the homepage banner would just fill up half of the screen and with the image-slider(carousel) showing underneath in the same section. I later regretted that design choice because I thought it looked less clean and more clunky. So, after some careful consideration I changed it so that the homepage only showing a large, panoramic background-image with the header that reads “Experience the Tropico blog”, and a button that scrolls down to the ‘Latest Post’ section where the image-slider is now located on the page. Also, in my original design I used more colours, however in the end I choice less colour and more consistency to have my over-all design look more harmonious.

### **What would you do differently next time**

Next time I would probably focus more of my time designing the other pages to look unique and with more colours, and at the same time making it look consistent and harmonious. I was probably too focused on the index/home page, even though this page is quite important and became the template for the other pages as well. Also, I tend to start designing the page in desktop mode rather than in responsive mode, which I will consider doing next time.

## Technical

### **What went well on the project**

When it comes to the technical part of the project, I think it went surprisingly well. By using one.com as my web-host provider, I was able to get a Wordpress website up and running. By adding images, description and alt-text in the Media Library, I was able to use the built in Wordpress API to upload content to my blog website. On the blog page, I was very satisfied with how the API content (blog-cards) got fetched on to the page, and how it loads in the remaining blogs posts from the API when clicking the “View More” button. Furthermore, I figured out in JavaScript how to show all error messages at once, rather than just one by one in the contact form, which also was an improvement compared to the contact form in the previous semester project. When it comes to the positioning of elements and making the website responsive, I mostly used flex-box and media queries to achieve this, which in my opinion worked quite well for this kind of assignment.

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

I had some struggles figuring out how to get the image-slider (carousel) to work properly. However, after some research I found that by manipulating the “per\_post” to only show 3 elements at a time. Also, in the header (nav), I was having some difficulties with the search button in desktop mode. The search button works fine when in full-size desktop mode. However, when adjusting the screen to a slightly smaller screen size, the social media icons get pushed to the side and out of user’s view when hovering the search button. Additionally, when observing the Hotjar recordings, I noticed some people had problems with exiting the modal because it was too large for their screen. I did not have the same problem myself when using firefox or chrome, however I decided to edit the size of the modal images, just in case.

### **What would you do differently next time**

Next time I would definitely try to step more out of my comfort zone and for example use more grid than flex-box, since I always have used flex-box on earlier assignments. Also, because of time constraints, I did not have efficient time to implement any JavaScript code to the newsletter form located in the footer, as it now just shows as a decorative element. Either way, I am planning to finish this later since it was not part of the specific requirements for the project.

## WCAG guidelines, content management and SEO

### **What went well on the project**

When it comes to the WCAG guidelines, there was very few problems and no adjustments needed to the colour contrasts, other than on When it comes to content management and SEO, I was generally satisfied with how the meta tags ended up. Every page has a unique description, and every image has an alt-text. Pretty much satisfied with the accessibility on the website, and I think I can conclude that the website is easy to read and navigate for the user.

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

There were a few accessibility issues, such as the placeholder-text on the contact/newsletter forms and keyboard issue where it is not possible to target the search button using only the keyboard. Did not find a solution to the placeholder text. Planning to make the search-button targetable in the future.

### **What would you do differently next time**

After some consideration I must say there is not much I would do different, other than making the placeholder text on the contact/newsletter form more visible in the future.

## References

(place references to websites, books, forums etc. that helped you in the project)

* <https://unsplash.com/>
* <https://pixabay.com/>
* <https://www.pexels.com/nb-no/>
* <https://compressjpeg.com/>
* <https://www.w3schools.com/>
* <https://developer.wordpress.org/rest-api/using-the-rest-api/pagination/>
* <https://lms.noroff.no/course>/